tion of the Ministry of Defence, has not established any Sainik Schools for girls in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of a primary school in Vasant Vihar Central Government Housing Complex

2749. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no Primary School has yet been opened by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in Vasant Vihar Central Government Housing Complex, New Delhi, in spite of various assurances given by the authorities concerned; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the school is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The school could not be opened by MCD as the possession of the land has not so far been handed over to MCD. MCD will take necessary action for opening of a school after the possession of the land is given to the Corporation.

Changes made by the Chairman, KVS

2750. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 182 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1988 and state:

(a) wheher it is a fact that the changes made by the Chairman, KVS in June, 1989 have been adopted by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Board of Governors in its meeting held on the 13th July, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details of changes adopted by the Board; and

(c) if not, what is the validity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (c) The changes made in the Recruitment Rules approved by the Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan would be placed at the next meeting of Board of Governors for adoption.

Merger of non-teaching staff employed in J.N.U.

2751. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tha Jawaharlal Nehru Univtrsity has set up a committee recently to work out the modalities for the merger of the non-teaching staff employed in the different departments i.e. Centre of Genetic Engineering, Department of Technology Project, Centre for Biotechnology etc. with regular staff of the University; ....

(b) whether it is also a fact that the University is still recruiting staff directly to Academic Staff College and the number of employees who have since been recruited;

(c) if so, what is the justification therefor; and

(d) if the answer to parts (a), (b), (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) The Genetic Engineerng Unit of Jawaharlal Nehru University was established in early 1983 as a project sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India for a period of five years to develop the

Molecular Genetics of Nitrogen Fixation and to serve as focal point to stimulate Genetic Engineering research in the country. The Department of Bio-technology, Government of India, has agreed to fund the Unit upto March 31, 1993. The project was earlier located in the School of Environmental Sciences of the University and is presently attached to the Centre for Bio-technology. Initially the Unit had 23 staff positions.

The Academic Council of the University in its meeting held on 24th February, 1989 resolved to authorise the Vice-Chancellor to set up a Committee to recommend modalities for merger of Units/Projects such as the Genetic Engineering Unit with the University system. The Committee has since met twice.

The JNU is one of the Universities selected by the UGC for establishment of an Academic Staff College for orientation of teachers. The University has so far made recruitment to the posts of Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director of the Academic Staff College in accordance with the UGC guidelines.

Drop outs from Schools in the Country

2752. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the rate of drop outs of students from Primary and Higher Secondary levels in the country during the years 1986-1987, 988 and during 1989 so far;

(b) whether Govt. have conducted any survey to ascertain the reasons for drop-out, if so, with what results; and

(c) what corrective steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) According to latest information available with the Ministry, the drop out rate of students in 1985-86 was 47.61 per cent for classes I to V, 64.42 per cent for classes I—VIII and 77.62 per cent for classes I—X. The drop out rate at Higher Secondary stage is not collected.

(b) and (c) A large number of research studies have been conducted by various bodies to ascertain the causes of students dropping out. These studies enumerate a large number of reasons responsible for drop-outs. The main among them are: 1. Socio-economic conditions. 2. Demands of work on the child to supplement the family income or look after household chores. 3. Indifference of parents towards education of children, specially girls. 4. Lack of parental support, particularly in the case of first generation learners. 5. In-adequately provided schools and inefficient teaching in schools. 6. Curriculum not being related to local needs.

A wide range of programmes is required in order to make an impact on the situation. The National Policy on Education formulated in 1986 gives highest priority to solving the problem of children dropping out of school and recommends adoption of an array of meticulously formulated strategies based on micro-planning, and applied at the grass-roots level all over the country, to ensure children's retention at school.

Three centrally assisted schemes have been started to (i) provide minimum essential facilities to improve primary schools through 'Operation Blackboard' (ii) strengthening and reorganisation of the Non-Formal Education Programme to provide education to school drop-outs, children from habitations without schools, girls who cannot attend whole day schools